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Tuesday, February 07, 2006  
NEWS ADVISORY

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### **NEWS MEDIA INVITED TO ATTEND**

*Dr. Gary Puckrein, Executive Director, National Minority Health Month Foundation To Join Senator Bill Hardiman at Press Conference Urging Congress to Address Inequalities in the Ryan White CARE Act (HIV/AIDS Funding for Communities of Color)*

**Lansing, Mich., February 7, 2006**—Senator Bill Hardiman invites members of the news media to attend a press conference in conjunction with Dr. Gary Puckrein of the National Minority Health Month Foundation.

***Wednesday, February 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m.***

***State Capitol – Room 402-403***

***Dr. Gary Puckrein will be available immediately after the press conference for interviews.***

Hardiman introduced Senate Resolution 95 which urges Congress to enact legislation reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act to provide comprehensive care for the neediest victims of HIV/AIDS.

The Ryan White Care Act was first enacted in 1990, and was amended in 1996 and 2000. To date, the Act reaches over 500,000 individuals a year, making it the largest federal program for people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States.

According to figures compiled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in 2003 Latinos made up more than 20 percent of new AIDS cases. African Americans in 2003 accounted for 49 percent of AIDS cases and over 42 percent of the population with HIV, according to the department. In addition, 67 percent of HIV positive African Americans were women.

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